

From: [Carlson, Christopher -FS](#)
To: [Armitage, Thomas](#)
Subject: Comments on a Candidate for the EPA Science Advisory Board Panel for the Review of EPA's Water Body Connectivity Report
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I am writing to support the nomination of Allison Aldous of The Nature Conservancy to the EPA Science Advisory Board Panel for the Review of EPA's Water Body Connectivity Report. I have known Allison professionally for some time, and from what I have seen she consistently engages as a team player in collaborations with a variety of other scientific disciplines. She has been working at the junction of hydrologic processes and aquatic ecosystems, focusing in particular on headwater wetlands, springs, and other ecosystems that in many cases could be classified as "isolated waters." She consistently takes a watershed approach to understanding aquatic ecosystems, using physical processes to understand the structure and function of biological systems where different springs, wetlands, rivers, and lakes at different positions in the landscape are a function of different ground- and surface-water flowpaths. I believe that she has the highest level of professional integrity to using the best available science to inform decision making.

The Forest Service has broad responsibility for management of hydrologic systems and water-dependent ecosystems on 193 million acres of National Forests and Grasslands across the country. In addition, the Forest Service has responsibility for supporting sustainable management of non-federal forest lands. In that context, the Forest Service has been working with The Nature Conservancy and other partners to advance sustainable management of aquatic resources. In summary, I think Allison Aldous would make a great addition to the Panel for the Review of EPA's Water Body Connectivity Report. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Chris

Christopher P. Carlson, PhD
National Groundwater Program Leader/
Groundwater Team Lead
Watershed, Fish, Wildlife, Air and Rare Plants &
Minerals and Geology Management Staffs
USDA Forest Service
1601 North Kent Street, Suite 500
Arlington, VA 22209

(703) 605-4634 / (703) 605-1544 FAX

VOIP phone: (202) 205-1481
mobile: (202) 503-6756
<mailto:ccarlson@fs.fed.us>

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